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November 19, 1962 - Monday

E and I left the house shortly after nine this morning, to attend a meeting of the Ditchley Foundation. Bill Clark accompanied us on the train to Oxford, as did Joe Harsch and his wife. We arrived at Ditchley, where we were welcomed by the Provost and Mrs. Hodson. The John Wheeler-Bennetts, the Roger Makins, Lord and Lady Inchyra, the generous donor, Mr. David Wills, and his wife, and other members of the board were present. In the name of President Kennedy, by whom I had been instructed to do so, I planted a tree on the terrace. It was an American red oak, and a fine 10-foot specimen of the species. At Staunton Hill, I always preferred the red oaks to the white oaks. They grow faster than does the white, but do not live as long, and of course lack the commercial value of the latter, since they are not kosher for whisky barrels. Jack Wheeler-Bennett and I made little speeches, as we all drew together in a cluster in freezing weather around the little tree. Afterwards, we had a splendid lunch, followed by the Provost's interesting report on his recent trip to the United States. We left in relays, since E had to be in town earlier than myself. I finally returned with the Harsches and Bill Clark, in time for dinner at the residence.

The Ditchley house, with which I was so familiar during the period of its ownership by Ronald Tree, lacks now, of course, the wonderful furniture and objects of art owned by the Trees. However, the interiors are still marvelous, and Mr. and Mrs. Wills have given some beautiful things to the Foundation, and seemingly expect to continue to do so.

We had a dinner tonight for

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